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found a man better fitted than Professor Harris to take charge of the study of Louisiana geology. The problems of the stratigraphy of the state can be attacked successfully only by a careful study of the fossils. The promptness with which the report has been published is one of its many virtues. The work was begun in November 1898, and Professor Harris' letter of transmission is dated November 1899. Such promptness, however, sometimes has its disadvantages. It is doubtless responsible for several important typographical errors, for the awkward title-page that gives neither date nor place of publication, and for the unfinished condition in which the maps appear. Perhaps it is just as well that the geological map accompanying the report is credited to no one, for to no one is it a credit. With the exception of the maps the volume is well printed and tastefully bound; and the defects we may find in the mechanical part of the work are very small matters compared with the valuable contributions to science contained in the report.

JOHN C. BRANNER.

On the Lower Silurian (Trenton) Fauna of Baffin Land. By CHARLES SCHUCHERT, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XXII, pp. 143–177, plates XII–XIV.

Any addition to our knowledge of the fossil faunas of the arctic regions is received with special satisfaction by those who are interested in the broader problems of palæontology, in which the facts of geographic distribution are of special moment. The present paper by Mr. Schuchert is one of the most important of such contributions to be found in our literature. It is devoted to the description and discussion of more complete collections of fossils from Sillman's Fossil Mount at the head of Frobisher Bay, than have previously been secured from that locality. Seventy species of fossils are recorded, eighteen being described as new. The fauna shows strong affinities with the Trenton fauna of the United States, especially with the fauna of that age as it is known in Minnesota, a large proportion of the species being common to the two regions.

The Trenton fauna has been recognized at various localities in the arctic regions, the strata containing it always resting unconformably upon the old crystalline rocks. No other Ordovician fauna has been recognized in the whole region save at one locality, on Frobisher Bay, where a few species indicating a fauna of Utica age have been collected. In general the Trenton beds are followed immediately by strata containing a Silurian (Upper Silurian) fauna of Niagara or Wenlock age.

STUART WELLER.

The Glacial Palagonite-Formation of Iceland. By HELGI PJETURSSON, Cand. Mag. Copenhagen. The Scottish Geographical Magazine, May 1900, Vol. XVI, No. 5.

This appears to be a very important contribution to the history of Pleistocene glaciation. It opens up a new and very promising field, whose data are peculiar because of their association with volcanic phenomena. The author presents in much detail, and with apparent care and discrimination, evidence of glacial formations antedating the so-called "preglacial" lava flows, as well as others interstratified with the lava flows. After twenty-two pages devoted to description of details, illustrated by figures, the author draws the following important conclusions:

> I shall not be surprised if this account of the occurrence of glacial deposits and striated rock surfaces in connection with the "palagonite-formation" of Iceland is received with incredulity. For myself, I could hardly believe the evidence when I first encountered it, and tried to explain it in every possible way other than by glacial action. But the glacial origin of the "breccias" could not be gainsaid. Not only did they present a characteristically morainic aspect, but they yielded numerous well striated stones, and in places were found to be resting upon grooved and striated rock surfaces. If the observations I have here recorded be accepted as fairly trustworthy, we cannot avoid the conclusion that glacial deposits, hitherto unrecognized as such, are largely developed in Iceland, or at all events in that part of the island which I have critically examined and referred to in these pages.
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> As I have had only a glimpse, as it were, into this very promising field of glacial research, I shall not attempt to deal with the glacial succession in Iceland. That must be left for future investigations to determine. Nevertheless there are several conclusions which seem to me obvious enough. Of these the most important, in my opinion, is that which has reference to successive glaciations. The facts advanced show that Iceland has experienced more than one glaciation before the ejection of the doleritic lavas and their subsequent smoothing and grooving by ice. How many separate glaciations the morainic breccias bear witness to is uncertain. But the repeated occurrence of four separate sheets or beds of morainic breccia seems to render it not improbable that there have been just as many separate glaciations during the